

## Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

SAJ-01 TRSE-00 IO-14 SAM-01 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 121700Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4563

INFO SECDEF WUSHDC

CINCLANT

USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

RUESPNQXUMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 837

RUDTCXAMEMBASSY LONDON 711

RUESSNQXAMEMBASSY OSLO 839

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM TYE

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0801

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR NATO IC

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: KING OLAV SPEAKS ON DEFENSE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0792

1. IN COURSE OF HIS JUNE 5-7 VISIT TO ICELAND, KING OLAV OF NORWAY MADE SPEECH AT DINNER GIVEN BY PRESIDENT OF ICELAND FROM WHICH EXCERPTS HAVE ONLY NOW BEEN PUBLISHED. WHILE SPEECH WAS APPARENTLY LARGELY OF HANDS-ACROSS THE-SEA TYPE, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING FOLLOWING ON DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS:

QUOTE:

BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN THEIR POSITION IN THE WESTERN WORLD AND, GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING, THAT POSITION HAS PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION FOR JOINT ISSUES OF INTEREST IN THE PAST AND AT THE PRESENT TIME. BOTH ICELANDERS AND NORWEGIANS FOUND IT NATURAL TO

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BE PACTICIPANTS IN WESTERN DEFENSE COOPERATION WHEN THAT COOPERATION

WAS LAUNCHED AND BOTH NATIONS TODAY EMPHASIZE THE DUAL ROLE OF THAT ORGANIZATION, BOTH FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE AND AS UN IMPLEMENT FOR DECREASED TENSION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. BOTH COUNTRIES AND THEIR NATIONS HAVE, IN THIS CONNECTION, STRONGLY SUPPORTED DISCUSSIONS ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN NATIONS AND THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND BOTH NATIONS HOPE THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BRING SUBSTANTIAL AND PERMANENT SUCCESS FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEACE AND COOPERATION IN OUR PACT OF THE WORLD. UNQUOTE

1. THESE INNOCUOUS REMARKS WERE SEIZED ON BY BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT IN ICELANDIC POLITICS FOR USE IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. INDEPENDENCE PARTY NEWSPAPER MORGUNBLADID QUOTED THEM APPROVINGLY AND SAID, "IT CAN HARDLY BE A COINCIDENCE THAT THE KING OF NORWAY SPEAKS THUS DURING HIS STATE VISIT TO ICELAND. EVERYONE KNOWS HOW CONCERNED THE NORWEGIANS HAVE BEEN AT THE INTENTION OF THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE DEFENSE FORCE WITHDRAWN AND IT HAS BEEN STRONGLY ARGUED THAT DEFENSELESSNESS FOR ICELAND WOULD HAVE THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR NORWEGIAN SECURITY AND MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR NORWEGIANS TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY NORTHERN NORWAY WHICH BORDERS ON THE SOVIET UNION. THE FACT THAT THE KING OF NORWAY SAID THESE WORDS AGAIN EMPHASIZES NORWEGIAN CONCERN BECAUSE OF THESE REASONS."

3. PREDICTABLY, LEFTISTS CLAIMED KING WAS INTERFERING IN ICELANDIC INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY COMMENTING ON MATTER WHICH IS ISSUE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND ON WHICH "ICELANDIC PUBLIC IS SERIOUSLY DIVIDED." PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER THJODVILJINN SAID "NORWEGIANS APPARENTLY THINK ICELAND IS STILL A COLONY AND DO NOT KNOW THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY."  
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